

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXI.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 22ND APRIL, 1905.

No. 18

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BIRTHS.

On 10th April, at Shanghai, the wife of F. LODER, Pingchiao Quarries, of a daughter.

On 11th April, at Peking, the wife of E. G. HULLIER, Manager, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, of a son.

On 15th April, at the Occidental Hotel, Kowloon, the wife of J. SCHLUTER, I.M.C., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On 7th March, at Dantzig, HERMANN SCHLICHTING, of Hankow, to KATHI HERRMANN.

DEATHS.

On 11th April, at Shanghai, VERA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. URQUHART, aged 2½ years.

On 13th April, at Shanghai, FREDERICK NEVILL-MAY, of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, aged 71 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 17th ultimo arrived, per the ss. *Dumbea*, on the 18th instant; and the English Mail of the 24th ultimo arrived, per the ss. *Chusan* on Thursday, the 20th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. L. A. Rose's name has been added to the list of authorized architects.

A report that an attempt was made to assassinate Viceroy Chang (Chih-tung) is contradicted.

The Japanese are hoping that a crushing defeat of the Russian Armada will end the war.

The Koreans are said still to hate the Japanese with an undying hatred. The grievance is that they have "lost face."

Major H. J. Kellall, R.G.A., on promotion, has been appointed to command No. 83 Company Royal Garrison Artillery at Hongkong.

Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd. at Shanghai is paying a final dividend this month of seven per cent., making twelve per cent. for last year; also, a bonus of two dollars per share. They carry \$42,000 forward.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has, says the *Japan Chronicle*, chartered three more British and two additional Norwegian steamers for their North China service. This makes the total number of foreign steamers now chartered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha 23. Eight Japanese steamers have also been chartered.

"R.H." wrote to the *Japan Chronicle* protesting against a Japanese custom of plucking chickens before killing them, and speculating as to the reason. The practice is common with Chinese. An old resident states that he once thrashed his "cook" who had several chickens walking about quite naked, waiting their turn to be killed.

His many friends in China and Europe will be glad to hear that the Chinese Government has appointed Taotai Lew Yuk Lin to the post of consul-general for China at Johannesburg, Transvaal. Taotai Lew has held official appointments in London, Brussels and other European capitals, and is favourably known to many in Hongkong.

A Russian prisoner interviewed at Yokohama is said to have spoken in condemnation of the Russian commissariat. Everything, he said, was horrible. Not enough flour, and what there was, mixed with sand, as was the sugar. There was a terrible shortage, too, in medical stores and comforts, in everything in fact save "champagne for the officers."

A fire which broke out on the German ship *Niebs*, at Yokoya, on March 22nd is supposed to have been of incendiary origin. It is reported that one of the sailors, a Swiss, went ashore and returned aboard drunk. The Captain had occasion to censure the man, and it is believed that he set fire to the oil cargo in revenge. While the fire was in progress, the Swiss tied a piece of iron to his leg and threw himself overboard. It is supposed he was drowned.

While the master of No. 61 Station Street, Yaumati, was away in the country worshipping at his ancestors' tombs, two of his foks, who were left in charge of the shop, stole a box of his clothing and sundry other articles. The theft was discovered, and the two men were placed before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court yesterday on a charge of larceny. The first defendant was discharged, and the second sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

It is officially reported that since the commencement of hostilities thirty two steamers of over one thousand tons each have been captured by the Japanese navy. The above number includes the *Sungari* taken at Chemulpo. The total tonnage of the steamers is about 100,040 tons. On the other hand the number of the Japanese steamers of over 1,000 tons each sunk by the Russians reach four, representing a total of 14,000 tons. This leaves 86,040 tons in favour of Japan.

Among the many industries that have died a natural death in the Philippines is the manufacture of a peculiar purple dye from a variety of wood known as Si Bucan. Years ago, says the *Cablenews*, this product, along with indigo, was among the most valuable exports of the islands, but at present nothing is heard of it. Specimens of the dye will be on exhibition at the school exhibit in the chemical building out at the exposition grounds, and it is hoped that interest in its production may be revived.

This horrible heading appeared in a Manila paper:—"The quick comes to the dead.—Lieut. Collins a corpse and a bride is on the sea to wed him here."

A telegram was received by the authorities in Tokyo from the Governor of the Hokkaido giving further particulars of the disaster to the British steamer *Mars*. The telegram says the vessel stranded at Atoiya, and was wrecked on the 17th instant. She was owned by Mr. Harrison Dixon of London. Of the crew of 39, eight men, including the Captain, chief and second mates, engineers and others, with important papers, left the steamer in a boat, which was carried away by floating ice. Five men were saved.

The *Shanghai Mercury* says that as a native was gaily pedaling a gaudy looking bicycle along the Bund the front forks of his machine snapped off close to the socket, with the result that the rider took a header in the road which had just been nicely sprinkled by a Municipal water cart. The unfortunate quickly picked himself up and with a sad look at his mud stained garments he gathered up the remains of his machine and made for the nearest repair shop muttering unutterable things about cheap but gaudy bicycles that collapse when least expected.

The *Manila Sunday Sun* says:—"By a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on Tuesday, all customs duties collected in the Philippines prior to the establishment of civil government will be returned to the firms who paid them. Consequently there is great rejoicing. It is estimated that the amount of money to be returned is five millions of gold dollars. While the *Sun* rejoices that this immense sum is coming to the islands, where it will do much to establish prosperity, we cannot but reflect upon the real justice of the matter. These five millions of dollars were paid to the government of the United States from the pockets, not of Manila business men, but of Manila consumers. The individuals who drank the bottled beer, and wore the shoes, and used the other articles taxed, paid this money, not the few merchants to whom it is being returned. They raised their prices in proportion to the amount of the duties and collected the amounts in extra charges from the consumer."

A poem written by Thomas Campbell (1777-1844), entitled "Battle of the Baltic," affords rather a striking coincidence, even in date. One stanza runs:—

"Like leviathans afloat
Lay their bulwarks on the brine;
While the sign of battle flew
On the lofty British line:
It was ten of April morn by the chime:
As they drifted on their path
There was silence deep as death;
And the boldest held their breath
For a time."

Informers, it is said, are paid handsomely by the Japanese Government, and the story of one particularly smart trick, which, if true, may account for some of the local Chinese bankruptcies, is still being retailed. The informer went into partnership with several Chinese speculators and sent a small steamer to run the blockade with provisions. She was successful, and the informer asked his friends to plunge heavily for a similar venture. They did so, and he "gave the game away" to the Japanese Government, receiving such a reward as to enable him to retire.

CHINA'S INTEGRITY ASSURED.

(Daily Press, 17th April.)

There can be little question that the complaints which were made from time to time by the Russian Government of breach of neutrality on the part of the Chinese were nothing more nor less than a portion of the programme which it had laid out for itself in connection with the war. It would suit Russia admirably to have a grievance against China which might be made a pretext for some further annexation of Chinese territory when the war came to an end. Even if things went against her, she might still hope to get hold of something to which Japan, in coming to terms, might not object, and which would prove some sort of solatium for her losses in other respects. The position, however, has been very well seized by the other foreign nations who are certain either directly or indirectly to have something to say in the final settlement. It is highly significant that Germany and France have declared themselves in favour of sustaining the integrity of China. That this has been the policy of Great Britain and America for many years past is well known, and so far as Japan is concerned, it has been the chief thing she has striven for from the beginning. The fact, however, that France and Germany are now avowedly in favour of this policy may be taken to indicate very clearly that the ideas of acquiring territory in China have been abandoned by both those nations; and that they are prepared to co-operate with England and the United States in the policy which of late years has been identified with the latter, and will support Japan in such measures as may be necessary for carrying it out.

It is not difficult to see how this change of view has been brought about. So long as it seemed likely that any one foreign nation would establish itself over a substantial part of China, the others were naturally disposed, if possible, to follow suit both upon strategic and commercial considerations. What seemed to be accepted among diplomatists was that in due time there would be a general attempt at packing up what could be got from the remains of China. This game of Snap Dragon appeared good enough for a time, but events have shown that it may prove one that is a little too hot to be agreeable. Enterprising nations have had an object lesson in the war which may well make them pause in anything that may lead to accepting the responsibilities of territorial possessions in China; and at present there is a concurrence of opinion that it is a wiser policy for foreign nations to leave China alone. Thus, in an unexpected manner there has been a recurrence in reality to what was the accepted policy in theory, at all events among Diplomatists, ever since the Treaty of Tientsin. The weakness of China was so apparent that any improvement from within seemed hopeless, and it was at one time thought that the best thing that could happen would be that she should come in some way under European rule, either by being partitioned or by falling under the sway of some nation who could govern her properly. The only nation who might have accepted such a responsibility was Great Britain, but, apart from the opposition which other nations might be disposed to offer, Great Britain has never been anxious for territorial dominion in China, though such design has been freely attributed to her. Sir FREDERICK BRUCE, the first Minister at Peking after the Tientsin Treaty, and Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK and Sir THOMAS WADE who followed him, were all notoriously averse to anything which might tend

to territorial responsibility in China, and the policy thus established by them has been maintained, and has of late been adhered to with more reason than there was for it originally, inasmuch as matters in the Far East have become far more complicated, and the responsibilities of assuming any jurisdiction have become proportionately greater. During all this time a factor which had been but little considered came into existence in the form of Japan, and in face of this rising Power in the Far East the undesirability of European interference by way of territorial acquisitions is more manifest. It has become apparent that the objects which it is desired to obtain:—first facilities for trade, and next, something like political stability, might be arrived at in a more desirable way than by territorial acquisition; while, on the other hand it is not to be denied that the presence in the East of a nation like Japan, opposed to the partition of a neighbouring country as likely to be a menace to herself, had been recognised as an element adding in no small degree to the responsibilities attaching to anything in the form of territorial annexation in China. If Japan continued, (as she at one time seemed to be) desirous of herself acquiring possessions in China, the situation would be more complicated; but she has fully recognised the desirability of maintaining China's integrity, and there is no reason to apprehend that she will depart from that policy. At the same time she is using her position, and apparently with success, in bringing China to a more liberal policy as regards foreign nations—and the influence which she will now be able to exert in this direction, will, it is reasonable to hope, be productive of better results than could be hoped for by any other means. At the present time we find not only England and America (whose policy has always been identical in this respect) but also France and Germany in favour of preserving China from aggression; and there is also this very important feature in the present.

A RESPECTABLE ANARCHIST.

(Daily Press, 13th April.)

The *Times* of March 11th publishes three columns of personal opinions that, supposing them to have been written by some plain JOHN SMITH, would not have escaped the editor's waste-paper-basket. This is absolutely certain, and cannot be gainsaid. This great flood of logorrhoea is allowed to cover half a page of the *Times*' valuable space because it was written by Count Leo TOLSTOY, and for no other reason. Without that name affixed, very few *Times* readers would have troubled to read it. With that sign manual, many would read it. So it went in. It is worth while to remember this human trait, before traversing the points of the mystic Russian, because there are people who will reply, "But if Tolstoy says so, and if the *Times* gives it publicity, there must be something in it." That is illogical, but it is also human nature. We offer no censure, we intend no ridicule; but faithful reflection will bring conviction that it is quite true; and being true, it is important. Man has been advised to learn to know himself; 'the greatest study of mankind is man'; these admissions tend to self-knowledge, when they are not obstinately and unthinkingly disregarded. TOLSTOY does not know himself. He is mentally incapable, as we have pointed out before. He lacks the necessary and saving sense of humour; blinded by the pride of intellect, he takes his dreams too seriously. His thesis is that all force is bad, whether

altruistic in intention or not; and that no real reform of the conditions of life is possible except by men striving for their own individual, "inner, religiously moral perfecting." The "higher law of one's conscience" is the only law he would have men obey, with the golden rule, of doing to others what we wish them to do to us, as a basis.

He says all Governments are bad; that the Russian is not the only one. Indeed, he compares "the European nations, and especially the Americans," with the Pharisee in the gospel narrative; and the Russian Government occupies the position of the Publican, who confessed that he was a miserable sinner; while the Europeans, "and especially the Americans," presumably thank God that they are not as the Russians are. Resistance of oppression, all forms of resistance, he regards as "comical from the point of view of the possibility of success, and piteous from the point of view of the unfortunate, misled individuals who perish in this unequal strife." There seems here to be some explanation of his extraordinary immunity from official interference. Were he to preach that men could not die more nobly than fighting fearful odds, the Russian Censor might not be so indulgent. He says it is not true that if liberty were granted, the people would themselves express their demands. Revolutionary activity is "inexpedient, unreasonable, and unright." All political effort distracts them from the paramount duty of withstanding their own temptations to "fear, stultification, greed, ambition, and vanity." He expressly disapproves of "prayer for one's own perfection"; he demands works. The theory of "faith in the redemption", or "in grace transmitted by the sacraments," cannot replace "personal effort." These are to him as much a "psychological illusion" as that which makes men think they can secure a Magna Charta by force. This personal effort, he thinks, "is always in our power—ourselves"; so that he is at the opposite extreme to that other extremist, SCHOPENHAUER, who denied humanity's power to mend its own character. Men recognise that something is wrong, but they go the wrong way to right it. "Thus there follows, first, the idle, and, secondly, the pernicious, vain (we correct other people) and evil (one may kill those who hinder the general welfare), depraving activity." After that pretty definition of vanity, it is interesting to read on, and to see wherein the man-made laws are wrong, according to Tolstoy. He points out that even Republican governments are wicked enough to wage war, instancing, *inter alia*, the subjugation of the Philippines, and the opening of China. "These Governments, when they find it necessary, crush with armed force any risings and manifestations of the will of the people, which they regard as transgressions of the law—i.e., of that which these Governments at a given moment regard as the law." While urging the claims of the individual "conscience," he forgets that all law in a representative Government is but the expression of the collective conscience. This is important, for the collective conscience changes and modifies its decisions from time to time, and individual consciences are no more stable. Conscience as the only guide means every man a law unto himself, an unthinkable condition of society. For the greatest good of the greatest number, those individuals whose consciences are inconveniently elastic are overawed by the "organized coercive power" Tolstoy thinks so dreadful. He tells us that "in England, the United States, France, and Germany

the pernicious character of Governments is so masked that "we are all "in the most hopeless state of slavery, the slavery of slaves who do not understand that they are slaves"! Then follows quite an anarchistic gem:—

"The fact is that every coercive Government is in its essence a great and unnecessary evil, and that, therefore, the aim both of us Russians and of all men enslaved by Governments should not be to replace one form of Government by another, but to free ourselves from every Government—to abolish it." Imagine the contempt of the editor of the *Times* for that item, if it had been sent in by the aforesaid JOHN SMITH. Yet surely Tolstoy's mere signature does not make nonsense sense, or anarchy other than mischievous? Of course he does not advise us to abolish our governments by force. "It is only necessary to abstain from participating in them, from supporting them." Ratepayers, slaves to the four governments mentioned, might not be unwilling to accept this advice. When summoned for non-payment of taxes they would have an excellent defence to offer the magistrate, "But Tolstoy gave us that advice, and the *Times* published it."

Towards the end of his long harangue, the mad philosopher, whose ailment may be diagnosed as a blend of religious and egomania, hits upon a discovery that should have awakened him to the futility of his ideals. He discovers the callousness of Nature, and the actual "disunion" of man. It may be terrible to think there is no real bond between men, but it is true, and it is natural, and it cannot be helped. "Yes, the essence of the matter is that there is something which disunites people, and that there is no connexion between them. The whole matter consists in that one should remove that which disunites people and substitute that which unites them. People are disunited by every external coercive form of government." Tolstoy merely makes an assertion in the last ten words, and it is wrong, as usual. Man is "disunited" by Nature: an egoist: there is no such thing as universal brotherhood, never was, and never will be. It is contrary to nature. Love of parents? Yes, but whose? It is always *my* parents. Of children? Again whose? Always *mine*; the everlasting pronoun, first person singular, subjective or possessive. These horrors in Manchuria, what of them? We are sorry if it sounds brutal, but who, who had no son, brother, or friend in peril, really cared? We took our battle and our bacon together each morning; and it would be hard to say with what different gusto. "Fifty thousand killed! Isn't it shocking, dear?" And even the shocked lady, against whose natural tenderness of heart, and mildness of disposition, Tolstoy could say nothing, helped herself to another piece of bacon. Change the news, reduce the fifty thousand to one single unit. "Our little son, our darling boy." The lady does not remark that that was shocking. It was not necessary. She left the bacon untasted. Is Tolstoy right? Is our typical lady of the breakfast table wicked, because she cannot feel the same regret for fifty thousand strangers that she does for one puny child who is her own? Must we quarrel with human nature at the bidding of Tolstoy and his hysterical followers? Or may we not put up with it a little longer, grateful for the good that is in man, nor weeping because he is not better than he was made. There is a report that Tolstoy and his wife, the mother of his children, do not agree, do not live together. Doubtless she is a worldly woman, and the

Count a lofty-minded, high-idealized, masculine angel immeasurably her superior. Still, each is but one human creature. When we hear of Tolstoy applying the golden rule in his own establishment, we may feel inclined to pay more respect to the preachings and screechings to which the *Times* has just lent its great power of publicity.

LOCAL SHIPPING RISKS.

(Daily Press, 19th April.)

This state of uncertainty, of anxiety, caused by the juxtaposition of the two belligerent fleets, almost at our doors, while it may amuse the gossips, is far from amusing the business community of Hongkong. In shipping circles particularly there is a daily prayer that Togo may, finding work to his hands, do it with all his might, and get it over. It may be noted that they are not quite neutral in their expressions of their present desires, for it is the Baltic Fleet whose interference with local shipping they mainly dread. The Japanese ships have been about ever since the Russian ships scuttled from Port Arthur to the various ports where they are now interned; and shipping that was not overtly interested in blockade running has enjoyed complete immunity from interference. The only trouble until the arrival of the Baltics was the mines that strew some of the northern routes, a still present danger, by the way, towards which the British ships on the China station maintain an attitude strangely apathetic. Is it that the old red-tape system of awaiting orders is still in force? If so, the new arrangement, by which commanders on the spot are to be permitted to think for themselves a little, instead of remaining mere cablegram-receiving automata, will be welcomed. There is absolutely no valid reason why some of the British war vessels should not have been sent to destroy these mines, immediately the blockade of Port Arthur ceased; and various reasons, in addition to the safety of commerce, could be adduced in favour. For instance, it would have been better target practice than the routine allows.

Reverting to the arrival of the Baltic ships, and its effect upon local trade, it appears to have caused something like a panic, which, if allowed to continue much longer, will bring about a stagnation of the business of the port. Russian cruisers have already begun the Red Sea business, in a mild, tentative manner, but with sufficient obviousness of intention to give shippers pause. Already the insurance rate has gone up about one per cent on cargoes travelling in the supposed direction of the traffic overhaulers; and we are informed there is a disinclination to make any shipments that can conveniently be postponed. A firm wishing to send a few tons of lead in the most innocent manner for bona-fide trade purposes, and the shipowners who would carry it, have to stop and consider possibilities as to what the Russians might do if they overhauled the ship and saw the manifest. Their view of such consignments has been neither sympathetic nor indulgent in the past; and few hope for better things of them in the present. Altogether, therefore, news of their hasty departure, of their sinking or capture, of anything that will take them well away from their present unpleasant location, will cause relief and pleasure in Hongkong.

A Japanese, after a six weeks tour in Shantung, denies that the Germans interfere with the natives. They were in peaceful business. He saw no garrisons at railway stations.

THE RUSSIAN OBJECTIVE.

(Daily Press, 20th April.)

The intentions of Admiral Rozhdestvensky and his officers are now as an open book to naval experts. The line of proposed action by the Baltic Fleet is, obviously, to take in stores, to clean ship, and to "stand easy" as a preliminary to attempting a run to Vladivostock. It is thought that, besides filling their bunkers, the Russian ships will certainly take heavy deck cargoes of coal. This accumulation of coal above, if properly stowed, is unlikely to be any hindrance to the efficient working of the guns and ships. On the contrary, naval officers know that coal is one of the best "shot stoppers" that can be provided; and so it serves the double purpose of affording a certain amount of protection, and of extending the mobility of the fleet. The latter is an important point, for it is probable that if the Armada once makes its dash for the northern port, Camranh Bay will have been its last voluntary halting place. Provisions in Annam are both plentiful and cheap; and all that Admiral Rozhdestvensky should possibly require is to his hand. As the Americans express it, it is now "up to him" to make the attempt, "hit or miss." The prospects of his enterprise cannot be made any rosier by further delay. Some weakness is inevitable in his fleet of forty-seven vessels, but it will be set down to abnormally bad handling, and to a total lack of naval "dash and go," if all of them fail to reach their objective; or, conversely, it will give to the Japanese navy more kudos than ever if it should have the extraordinary luck to stop the whole of such a great Armada. Newspaper readers have so often been told that the Baltic squadron consists of old or obsolete craft that they may well fail to realise how really formidable it is. Even if beaten in the first engagement, it is not to be assumed that remnants of it will not remain for some considerable time to threaten transport and commerce. Some people think that the fact of feeling "at bay" will endow the Russians with a better moral than that which the easy confidence, born of past successes, is likely to give the Japanese. This we are not prepared to endorse, for we have seen how the Russian is more prone to count the cost than is the Japanese fighter. Certainly the Russians enjoy one benefit: they have learned to respect the enemy. So have the Japanese, but they do not express it in terms of over-respect. They have climbed from respect for the enemy to self-respect: the Russians began with contempt for the enemy, and their exaggerated self-confidence must now be tinged with a little self-distrust. It is, however, mainly shooting that counts; and these psychological factors may be credited with greater importance than they deserve. Russians are not good sailors: Japanese are. Russian officers are aristocrats, with a constitutional regard for their own value: Japanese officers are professionals, and they make their country's quarrel a personal matter. Thus the "man behind the gun" on the Japanese side has a better brain to control and direct him. Skill, experience, enthusiasm, sobriety, love of and aptitude for the sea, all preponderate with Admiral Togo's side; but the Japanese are human, after all, and the Russian admiral seems to have the advantage in numbers, so that we must not attempt to minimise the hardness of the nut which Togo has now to crack. That he will give a good account of himself when the time comes is absolutely sure; and as the party with a just quarrel is supposed to be thrice armed,

we are entitled to look for a continuance of the good fortune which has attended our Allies' efforts to chastise the Bully of the Far East. The issue could not be in surer hands.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS:

(17th April.)

It is proverbial that "The Weather" is a more frequent topic of remark in general conversation than anything else under the sun. There is usually nothing very informing in such remarks, but it is worthy of record that there is a consensus of opinion among the "old hands" that there never has been such weather in this part of the world as we have had this season. We have had abundance of rain when experience has taught us to expect but little, and we have had more fog than anybody can remember. On the mainland in the neighbourhood of the Colony, the crops, cereals as well as fruit, are very backward, and we have little to be thankful for save perhaps that we could still up to the end of last week at least, work without feeling uncomfortably warm in tweed suits.

When the Botanical and Afforestation Department some months ago commenced the sacrilegious work of denuding the slopes of the island, a feeling of intense indignation was aroused, particularly in the breasts of the older residents. That indignation was mirrored in the leader columns of the *Daily Press*; the Government was interrogated on the subject at one of the meetings of the Legislative Council, and an official answer was given as unconvincing as it was unsatisfactory. H.E. the Governor appears to have been among the number not convinced, as many will doubtless have noticed by the Report of the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department. For the benefit of those who have overlooked the paragraph I reproduce it:—

The question of what is the best rotation for *Pinus massoniana* in Hongkong is, however, still open to doubt; experts differ on the point and H.E. the Governor has decided that no more felling shall take place until the results of this year's operations have been calculated and the whole question put before an independent authority.

That is very satisfactory: the pity is that so large an area should have been cleared for the purposes of the experiment.

The military authorities are providing themselves with an aerial railway, for the purpose of carrying stores from the sea front to the magazines in the neighbourhood of Bowen Road. This will make the third or fourth railway of the kind on the island. That of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire at Quarry Bay which takes the European staff of the refinery to their summer quarters on Mount Parker is the longest, the new Military railway will rank next, and then comes the one belonging to the priests at Pokfulam, which I believe has been or is about to be duplicated in that part of the island.

I noticed in one of the papers this week the hope expressed that some Norwegian seamen who had been sentenced by the Marine Magistrate to terms of imprisonment for desertion would not on the expiration of the sentence become a charge on the community. Perhaps it is not generally known that before the Magistrate can try men from a foreign ship he has to receive a request to do so from the men's Consul, and at the same time a guarantee that the men shall not become a charge on the community. The men in question were put on ships in the harbour as their sentences expired.

A rumour is current that when a highly placed official in the Public Works Department ventured over to Kowloon one day last week he was surrounded by a menacing crowd of irate residents who demanded to know where and when the roads of Kowloon were to be put in decent order. On receipt of satisfactory assurances the official was allowed to return unhurt to his office.

It unfortunately happens that the English Mail departs right in the midst of the Easter holidays. This does not much concern the

Government departments, which will observe next Saturday, as well as Friday and Monday, as a public holiday. In commercial houses Good Friday will probably be the busiest day of the week. If any clergyman has not prepared his Good Friday sermon, I offer this as a theme.

The appearance of the Russian Fleet in the China Sea at a time when peace overtures were being talked about must have created a commotion in shipping circles the world over. It would be interesting to know the number of ships which have called at Hongkong during the past three months on their way north, laden with coal. Some have even come in this week from the south. The coal may be for Russian account, and that may account for them coming safely to port. It is strange that we have had no reports yet of ships seized by the Russians in the China Sea, but perhaps we have something to learn in this connection. It is an anxious time for shipping, and the Dogger Bank incident has made shipowners and traders generally feel a great deal more anxious than they would if this incident had not occurred to destroy confidence in the officers.

Another new departure has been made in the electric tram fares, the old system of five cent first class rides having been returned to. There are three five cent sections to each ten cent section. Passengers, apparently, did not see the force of ten cents for short distances. Many Europeans patronised richas though they preferred the electric cars. Others travelled third class in the closed-in pattern cars.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 18th April. Hon. Dr. F. Clark (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice President), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. Pearse, and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands. (Secretary).

MOTION RE OPIUM DIVANS.

The PRESIDENT, pursuant to notice, moved "That the following addition be made to No. 1 of the Bye-laws governing Opium Divans contained in Schedule "B" of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903:—

"Provided that, in the case of any existing licensed opium smoking divan on an upper storey, it shall be sufficient for the floor surface thereof to be paved with non-absorbent cement-tiles or with encaustic or other approved tiles, such tiles to be laid evenly and bedded and jointed in cement, or for the floor to be constructed of smooth and well-jointed hardwood, to the satisfaction of the Board."

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded. Carried.

ANTHRAX AT KENNEDY TOWN CATTLE DEPÔT.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon reported a case of anthrax at Kennedy Town Cattle Depôt on the night of the 6th instant. He said—The animal came into the depôt on the afternoon of the 6th along with eight others from Canton, and was found dead in the stall when the premises were opened next morning. The in-contact cattle have been put under observation, and the shed in which the bullock was found is being washed and disinfected.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted—I don't see why this should be dealt with confidentially. It is not in accordance with precedents. It is rather strange that not until deaths occur cases are reported.

The President minuted—I have no objection to taking this paper publicly. The animal was only in the depôt a few hours.

The report was laid on the table.

DRAINAGE CONTRACTORS.

Applications from Messrs. Yam Chun, and Kin Tuok requesting that their names be placed on the list of authorised drainage contractors were granted.

OTHER APPLICATIONS.

Applications for modifications and exemption from the requirements of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and re the sale of food were dealt with.

CLASSIFICATION OF BODIES SENT TO PUBLIC MORTUARY 1904.

The President reported:—Out of 707 bodies dumped in the City of Victoria during 1904 no less than 426 were infants under one year of age, and a further 169 were between the ages of one and ten years. This makes a total of 595, or more than 84 per cent of the whole number dumped. In addition to the above 707 were six bodies where ages are not recorded.

The Board will learn from the table that bodies are not thrown into the street because the persons have died of plague, for only twelve per cent. of the total bodies found in the street have died of this disease. The fear of disinfection is not therefore the principal determining cause.

Is it not more probable that the desire to avoid burial expenses may be at the root of the matter? No doubt many of the coolie class are here without relations, or persons interested in their obsequies, and when such a person dies the lodging house-keeper or other householder disposes of the body in the cheapest manner possible, namely, by depositing it in the street.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted—I don't think the cost of burial has had anything to do with dumping. Before plague measures were introduced dumping had never been heard of.

Mr. Pollock minuted—Very interesting. This affords a striking instance of how dangerous it is to theorise on insufficient data.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted—As far as I know, the dumping of dead bodies is mainly due to the fear of the stringent measures adopted in former years. That fear has not yet been dispelled. The poor Chinese can always obtain coffins gratis from the Tung Wa Hospital to bury their dead, or can send their sick before they die to that institution. It is therefore apparent that it is not done with the intention to avoid burial expenses. I hope, however, that the receiving houses or branch hospitals just started by the Chinese community will help to mitigate, if not entirely stop, this evil practice.

Hon. Mr. Brewin, after going into data, minuted—I don't see why the so-called "stringent measures" should have increased the number of bodies found in the Harbour so greatly, as these regulations are not applied to the population afloat, and it is to be presumed that most of these bodies found in the Harbour belong to the boat population. I believe that economic reasons constitute an important factor.

The following are the figures showing percentage of non-plague cases to the total number of bodies examined at the Mortuaries in 1904:—

Mortuary	No. found in Street	No. found in Harbour	Percentage
Victoria	1551	1239	79.9
Kowloon	674	556	82.5

Mortuary	No. found in Street	No. found in Harbour	Percentage
Victoria	764	666	87.2
Kowloon	407	357	87.7

FOOD EXAMINATIONS.

The following is the return of samples examined under "The Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1896," for the quarter ended 31st March, 1905:—

Description	No. samples	No. genuine	No. adulterated
Brandy	1	1	0
Milk	25	20	5
Whisky	2	2	0

There were two prosecutions for the selling of adulterated milk in the first quarter of the year. One sample of milk was obtained from the dairy at Nos. 20 and 22 Cochrane Street. The magistrate convicted and imposed a fine of \$10. Another sample was obtained from a dairy at No. 4, Tung Lo Wan. The magistrate dismissed the case.

The report was laid on the table.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended 25th March, deathrate per thousand per annum, showed the following figures:—British and foreign community, 19.9; previous week, 34.9 corresponding week last year, 25.7. Chinese community, 15.2; previous week, 15.2; corresponding week last year, 14.4.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

During the fortnight ended the 11th April 4,260 houses were limewashed in the eastern district, and 3,534 in the central district.

HAT RETURN.

During the week ended the 15th April 428 rats, including sixteen infested, were caught in the City of Victoria, and 201, including eleven infested, at Kowloon.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 17th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

RE THE SAM YEE COMPANY, LIMITED.

This was a creditor's petition for the winding up of the Sam Yee Company.

Mr. Hugh Norman Ferrers, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, appeared for the petitioner.

In the petition it was stated that the Sam Yee Company, Limited, is a registered company incorporated under the Hongkong Companies Ordinance on the 1st July 1902. The principal business of the Company was that of cotton and yarn dealers. The nominal capital of the Company is \$500,000 divided into 2,500 shares of \$200 each. The amount of capital paid up is \$140,000, having a balance of \$360,000 yet to be called up. The petition was brought by a friendly creditor, Luk Lai Cho, the manager of the Yan On firm (No. 32, Bonham Strand East) to whom the Company is indebted in the sum of \$2,470. The reason for the petition being presented is that the Company is insolvent, and unable to pay its debts. The Company has suffered very severe losses during the past year, owing to unexpected fluctuations in cotton and yarn markets, and has also been unsuccessful in three Original actions against it for damages for non-delivery of yarn. The necessary formalities have been complied with and the petition duly served and advertised. The liabilities of the Company amount to over \$500,000.

Mr. Ferrers asked that Mr. J. W. Lee Jones, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court of Hongkong, be appointed to do the winding up.

His Lordship—I think you are entitled to the Order, which I make accordingly. The liquidator is to give such security as may satisfy the Registrar. The petitioner has his costs.

Tuesday, 18th April.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

The Criminal Sessions opened yesterday.

Ho Hing was charged with robbery with violence at Mongkok on the 24th March. The Attorney General (Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C.), instructed by Mr. Morrell, of the Crown Solicitor's office, prosecuted. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following Jury was empanelled:—Messrs. C. Buyers (foreman), F. T. Chapple, F. C. Hurley, E. P. Pereira, T. E. Pearce, J. L. H. O'Neil and F. Urban.

After the hearing of the evidence, His Lordship in summing up told the story very briefly:—The defence is that the prisoner, who was hard up and hoped to get back to Canton, was a friend of the woman, and went to borrow some money from her. When he got into the house, the woman saying she had no money, he asked for something to pawn. The other story is that instead of being a friend the prisoner is a man who tried to rob her; he threw pepper into her eyes, and took two bangles off her wrists, then the husband came and the man was arrested. The prisoner himself corroborates the pepper part of the story in a statement, but says it was incense stick powder.

A verdict of guilty was returned and His Lordship said:—No other verdict could possibly have been returned against you. You were evidently a tramp, wanted to get back to Canton, looked into this woman's house, and robbed her. Fortunately you were caught. It is a serious thing to go into people's houses. Two years' hard labour, and as you inflicted violence on this woman you will have twenty strokes of the birch.

GANG ROBBERY.

Trung King Fuk was charged with gang robbery. He pleaded not guilty and the following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. A. C. Diss (foreman), J. T. Hoskins, W. G. Peter, R. Henderson, J. O. Gow, T. P. Keeney and W. H. Purcell. The name of W. C. Coggin was also called, but met with no response.

The prisoner was charged with being one of a gang who committed a very extensive robbery at Kwai Tai village, in the New Territory, about two months ago. The robbers terrorised the inmates of a house, tied them up, beat a man in order to extract information as to where his goods were, and committed theft from the person. Three men of the gang were sentenced at the March Criminal Sessions.

The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to five years' hard labour and to receive twenty-four strokes of the birch.

COMPANIES.

THE YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LD.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of this company was held at Shanghai on April 11th. Mr. J. M. Young, said:—It affords your directors very great pleasure to be able to submit these statements, showing as they do working accounts both 1903 and former years and for 1904 that bear any previous records of the Association. The balance to be dealt with under the former of these accounts is \$238,190.62 and as stated in the report is recommended to be distributed as follows, viz:—

To payment of a Dividend of 20 per cent. or \$12 per Share	\$96,000.00
.. Transfer to Reserve Fund	50,000.00
.. Transfer to R/Insurance Fund	50,000.00
.. be carried forward	42,190.62
	\$238,190.62

If you sanction this proposed allocation, the reserve fund will be raised from \$700,000, to \$750,000, and we shall also open a Re-insurance Fund with a credit balance of \$50,000, which we think will be an advantageous and convenient way of providing to a small extent for risks that may exceed the lines generally taken by our Underwriter. Owing to our increasing business and the large cargoes now carried by steamers we have often a good deal of reinsurance to arrange. Many other offices have adopted this plan and it seems to work satisfactorily. We hope to add to this fund year by year using it if necessary to meet any extraordinary claims or for equalising the dividends to shareholders. In the meantime it, like the increase to the reserve fund, renders the enlargement of the Association's capital, to the desirability of which I have referred at the two last annual meetings, less pressing, although that point must be kept in view should we continue fortunate enough to experience further expansion of business or should there be a considerable decline in the rate of exchange which would render it necessary to increase the capital of the Association. As regards the working account to 31st December, 1904, the net premium earned during the year

amount to	\$1,110,534.86
as against the preceding year	859,819.47

being an increase of..... \$ 250,715.39

Early in the year we had some rather heavy losses but later on were more fortunate, so that the balance at credit of this account on the 31st December 1904 was \$623,364.95 against \$432,475.30 the year before. The balance of \$623,364.95 includes an item of \$93,067.80 for interest earned, and out of this your directors propose to pay a special dividend of 5 per cent. or \$3 per share, \$24,000, bringing the amount to be carried forward down to \$599,364.95. Although the losses and claims pending against the 1904 Account are \$75,000 more than they were at this time last year against the 1903 Account, the liability for unexpired risks against the same is not exceptionally heavy and the amount carried forward should be amply sufficient to meet all claims, and we trust will leave a good balance besides. Pending Claims account Former Years are estimated at

about \$18,000 more than they were last, but as we carry forward \$42,190.62 against \$34,428.17 this should be amply sufficient. Of the \$266,133.55 due by agencies, premium in course of collection, and sundry out standings on the 31st December 1904 \$215,000 have since been received. Your Directors are also satisfied that the properties against which the Association has made advances afford ample security. Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account.—The difference in the rate of sterling exchange on the 31st December 1903 when it was 2/5 5-16 and on same date 1904, taken at 2/9½ or say a rise of 11.51 per cent. amounts to a great extent for the \$31,903.81 by which the credit balance has been reduced to \$5,809.48. Market depreciation in some of the Association's Investments at the latter date account for the rest of the apparent loss, which is, however, considerably reduced if we calculate on to-day's quotations.

Expenses.—The percentage of expenses to premium during 1904 was only 13.52 per cent. against 18.06 per cent. for the preceding year. We must bear in mind that a large proportion of the increased premium earned in 1904 was due to War Risks, so it seems doubtful whether the same amount of premium income will be long maintained, but when Peace is happily restored, we trust the great expansion of trade that it is natural to expect will follow, will afford us opportunities for fully participating in the benefits. In the new year 1905 we have not advanced far enough to justify any prophesying on my part, but we are content with the experience as far as it has gone. We are interested in the case of one or two vessels, seized by the Japanese Government under pretexts we hardly yet rightly understand, but having no reason to doubt that the Government desires to act fairly and legally, we hope for the best issues from the questions now before the Courts. Under the circumstances, it is not desirable to discuss the matter at this point. Provision has been made in our estimates in case of adverse decisions. The past year has been, as you will readily understand, one of constant care and heavy anxiety for Mr. Jackson. To have achieved the splendid results now laid before you entitles him and the other members of the staff, I think, to the thanks and recognition of Shareholders. (Hear, hear.) Feeling that I shall be merely anticipating the general wish of the Shareholders, I propose, with the consent of my colleagues on the Board, doing ourselves the pleasure of submitting a resolution before we separate, to give them a bonus of not exceeding 20 per cent. on the salaries paid to them during last year. (Hear, hear.)

THE SHANGHAI COTTON SPINNING CO., LD.

The second annual general meeting of shareholders in the Shanghai Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd., was held on April 10th at Shanghai.

The Chairman (Mr. Yamamoto) in opening the proceedings, said:—Gentlemen—The Report and Accounts which have been in your hands for some time will, no doubt, be taken as read. The profit on the Working Account amounts to Tls. 62,477.47, and the balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, including Tls. 14,699.70 brought forward from last account amounts to Tls. 63,539.97. Out of this profit, your Directors propose to pay a dividend of ten per cent. on paid-up capital, absorbing Tls. 30,366, to set apart Tls. 15,000 as Reserve Fund for renewal and repairs, raising it to Tls. 25,000, and to carry forward the balance, Tls. 18,173.97, to new account. I feel sure that these figures will be received by the shareholders with much satisfaction, and before asking you to pass same, I wish to make a few remarks. At the beginning of last year prices of yarn were very high, but about the end of March a sudden collapse took place and the market remained without life until the following August, in spite of the enhanced value of cotton then ruling, thus causing an accumulation of stocks and consequent loss of interest thereon. Fortunately, however, the condition of the market soon improved and we have been able to sell our yarn again at a remunerative price. The mill worked day and night throughout the year at its full capacity, and I am

pleased to say it continues to run in perfect order. As regards the silk filature, I have to say that on the expiration of the previous lease, we have renewed the same to the same party for a further period of one year, at Tls. 5,000, ending on the 15th of May 1905.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE SHEET.	
Assets.	Tls.
Land, building, machinery and plant in cotton mill and silk filature ..	375,690.21
Furniture	2,907.99
Stereo and fuel	15,973.48
Raw cotton and cotton in process ..	87,235.43
Unexpired fire insurance premia ..	4,273.89
Accounts receivable	106,058.97
	Tls. 592,139.97

Liabilities.	Tls.
Capital authorised 10,000 shares at Tls. 50 each=Tls. 500,000, subscribed 8,676 shares paid up Tls. 35 each	303,660.00
Russo-Chinese Bank	180,000.00
Reserve fund	10,000.00
Accounts payable	34,940.00
Balance profit and loss account ..	63,539.97
	Tls. 592,139.97

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st December, 1904.

Dr.	Tls.
To interest	11,640.53
To depreciation of furniture ..	323.11
To directors' and auditor's fees ..	1,800.00
To agents' commission	5,426.70
To balance	63,539.97
	Tls. 82,730.31

Cr.	Tls.
By balance from 1903	14,699.70
By balance of working account ..	62,477.47
By rent of silk filature	5,528.04
By transfer fees	25.10
	Tls. 82,730.31

FAREWELL TO MR. NEWMAN MUMFORD.

A smoking concert was held at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong on the 15th April, in honour of Mr. Newman Mumford the President of the Institution. Mr. Mumford, who is Lloyd's Surveyor, is ordered to Constantinople. About two hundred were present at the concert.

During the evening Mr. H. T. Richardson presented an illuminated address to Mr. Mumford, on behalf of the Engineer and Shipbuilders of the Colony. In doing so he said that they were very sorry Mr. Mumford was leaving. He had been a very valuable person in connection with the Institution, and endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact during the last nine years.

Mr. Mumford thanked them. He spoke of past presidents, and of the carrying on of the Institution since its formation in 1891. The Institution had had its ups and downs, coming through all right till now, when it was in a good position. He hoped the new committee would give as good a record as others had done.

Mr. A. BAIN, one of the founders of the Institution, also made some remarks.

Those who contributed to the programme were Messrs. J. Inokay, W. J. Terrell, W. J. Russell, Badcock, L. A. da Graca, A. E. Paine, Walstow, G. H. Edwards, Cotter and Brand Messrs. Braud and Brown acted as accompanists.

Votes of thanks, in conclusion, were given to those who had organized the "smoker," Mr. McLachan, Mr. Craig and the Manager (Mr. Lennox), and to Mr. H. T. Richardson for presiding.

MR. MUMFORD'S SUCCESSOR—MR.

J. LAMBERT.

Mr. J. Lambert, superintendent engineer of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, is Mr. Newman Mumford's successor as Lloyd's Surveyor at Hongkong. A presentation of a

handsome silver salver was made to Mr. Lambert at the Kowloon docks, by Mr. T. Neave, acting on behalf of the staff of the Dock Company.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHINESE LAUNCH MONOPOLY.

Viceroy Shum has sent a dispatch to the Boards of Commerce and Foreign Affairs asking them not to grant any concession to any foreign power for placing launches on the inland waters of Kwangsi, as permission has already been granted to some Chinese merchants to have steam launches running on the inland water route of Kwangsi under the direction of some Chinese officers.

CHEAP RICE NOW.

On account of the favourable rice crop in Kwangsi, the price of rice in Kwangsi continues to decrease, a picul of rice of the best quality being sold for three dollars only, against six or seven dollars last year. The restoration of order in Kwangsi is practically due to the favourable rice crops, for most of the people were driven to join the rebellion on account of hunger.

JUNK TRAFFIC.

On account of the recent thick fogs, accidents to boats were frequently reported. On the 12th instant a junk, towed by a steam launch, which left Canton for San Cho, grounded; and the junk speedily filled with water. The passengers and the crew were immediately landed in small boats. The junk is still "stuck," and has not yet been refloated.

THE PROPOSED CANTON-WHAMPOA RAILWAY.

A CHINESE ENTERPRISE.

It appears from a report in the *Chung Ngai San Po*, that the proposed railway from Canton to Whampoa is not, as rumour has alleged, a project of the American-China Development Company, but a Chinese project. A scheme has been prepared for the building of a railway from Canton to Amoy by a Company promoted by His Excellency Chang P'at-shi, and described as the Imperial Chinese Railway Company.

It is desired to build the Canton-Whampoa section first, and the route mapped out was for the line to start from Sha-ho-han, outside the East gate of Canton, passing through Loong-han and proceeding along the bund of the river. It is proposed to lay a single track first, but in the acquisition of land, provision was to be made for a double track with the view to the ultimate connection of the line with the great trunk railway to run from Canton to Hankow.

The proposal was duly laid before the Viceroy and Governor of the province, but the Siu-hau-kuk (answering to a local Government board), has reported unfavourably on the route. The Bund, they state, is only 14 feet in width, and the river is already too narrow to allow of further reclamation. Moreover, the route proposed lies through the busiest part of Canton, and accidents would in all probability be numerous. Upon this report the Company has been requested to consider an alternative route.

CHINA'S FOREIGN AMBITIONS.

Chinese life is an interesting study in these days of change. By only looking back three or four years one realizes that a transformation is taking place that is really marvellous. When we remember how unchangeable and immovable China seemed. In many directions, says a missionary contributor to a contemporary, there is evidence of a growing consciousness of the imperfection and inferiority of native methods of doing things, and of a strong, but vague and often misdirected, admiration of foreign things. They know their processes of agriculture and manufacture are crude and wasteful and believe that if they could only use foreign methods they would all get rich. Last fall when a reporter for Shanghai, your correspondent was commissioned to inquire into the prices of windmills, flourmills, banana-oil presses, and machinery for

spinning cotton. Mingled with the anxiety to embark in these new enterprises is a well-justified fear of being cheated; which fear, however, is not strong enough to prevent many of them from coming to grief before these industrial changes are completed. A company has been formed here to buy Japanese looms for weaving coarse cotton cloth and an agent is now in Shanghai for that purpose. In view of their inexperience it is likely to be an expensive experiment. In educational and political matters the same symptoms are in evidence. Last summer a number of gentlemen subscribed several thousand taels to start a school of Western learning. They worked out the plans in some detail and made an offer to one of the medical helpers in a Nanking hospital to take charge at several times his present salary. But it all fell through because, as our informant said, each subscriber wanted to run the institution and, failing that, withdrew his support. The schools to be opened by the officials in this, and the neighbouring shiens have all had the same sort of a fate, each giving evidence of uncertainty and vacillation in the minds of their supporters. They know something is lacking in the Confucian education but do not know what part of the foreign system they need or how to get it. But one thing is certain; the ferment is working with an accelerating speed and a few years will see startling changes in this society, so long stagnant.

THE CURRENCY CHANGE IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Our Sanakan correspondent on the 15th ult. wired us that the Government of British North Borneo intended to adopt the Straits Currency. The following Proclamation dated 1st April has since appeared in the *Gazette*:—

"Whereas it is the intention of the Government to adopt the dollar of the Straits Settlements as the Currency of this State, and to demonetize all other dollars whatsoever, it is hereby enacted as follows:—

"1. This Proclamation may be cited as 'The Importation of Coins Prohibition Proclamation of 1905.'"

"2. From and after 15th April, 1905, the importation into the Territory of any silver dollar other than the current dollar of the Straits Settlements is hereby prohibited.

"3. (1) If any person shall import or attempt to import any dollars other than the current dollar of the Straits Settlements, to the amount in nominal value of twenty-five dollars, or upwards, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, and if the amount in nominal value is one hundred dollars and upwards, he shall be liable to imprisonment of either description for any term not exceeding six months either in addition to or in lieu of such fine.

(II) Any dollars other than the current dollar of the Straits Settlements imported or attempted to be imported in contravention to this Proclamation to the nominal value of twenty-five dollars or upwards shall be forfeited, and the forfeiture may be adjudicated by a Magistrate.

(III) The provisions of this section shall not apply to dollars or yens imported for transshipment under a license in writing from the Governor.

4. If any Magistrate or Justice of the Peace is satisfied by sworn statement in writing that there is good reason to believe that any silver dollars other than the current dollar of the Straits Settlements, which have been imported in contravention of this Proclamation, are likely to be found in any place to an amount exceeding in value the sum of fifty dollars, he may by warrant under his hand direct any person therein named to enter such place and search the same, and seize all such dollars there found, and detain the same pending adjudication.

5. Any person found offending against any of the provisions of section three of this Proclamation may be arrested without warrant by any Police Officer.

6. A Magistrate imposing any fine under this Proclamation may direct the same or any portion thereof to be paid to the informer or informers.

NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT.

The New Territories Land Court Report on work from 1900 to 1905 is published in the current *Hongkong Government Gazette*. Here are extracts:—

Judicial Work—The first judicial sitting of the Court was held on 20th February, 1901. By the advice of the Law Committee of the Legislative Council the start was made in New Kowloon, the Full Court—Mr. Pollock and Mr. Gompertz—sitting in the Eastern portion of New Kowloon all the summer of that year. The plan pursued was to first deal exclusively with conflicting claims. The superficial result for the first three years 1901-3 was thus small in extent compared to the immense mass of undisputed material awaiting consideration. But, when Mr. Gompertz resigned, the absence of disputes facilitated the quick settlement arrived at by the three new Members.

Chief Problems of the Settlement—The outstanding features of the Settlement problem are noted in Mr. Gompertz's first report: (1) Many large tracts of land are now claimed by persons who have never paid Crown Rent on them, who never reported their occupation, such as it was to the authorities, and whose claims have never been in any way recognized by the Chinese Government. (2) Very many persons have been paying under the name of tax annual sums to families who professed to be giving an account of these sums to the District Treasury but who as a matter of fact very often did nothing of the kind, and who in many cases had no real title to more than a very small fraction of the territory over which they collected this rent. The claims to large tracts have for the most part, on investigation, proved untenable, while the Tax-collecting families or "Taxlords", as we have called them, have, where they can show documents in support of their income, or of any part of it, been provided for in ways appropriate to each case on recommendations of the Court.

The Rent Recoveries Ordinance—As an outcome of the Taxlord question, there arose a general unwillingness to pay rents in the New Territories. To relieve this situation the Rent Recoveries Ordinance (14 of 1902) was passed, empowering the Land Court to enforce payment of rents. Between 10th of June, 1902, the date of the passing of the Ordinance, and the 7th August, 1903, the date of its repeal, 156 suits were filed in the Court, of which 46 were decided. These decisions were by some parties regarded as test cases for others on the list.

General Progress—It will have been seen that it is impossible to give any graphic idea of the judicial results achieved by the Land Court—District by District—until the final year (1904). The Full Court dealt continuously with the valuable property in New Kowloon. One case (No. 23, known as the "Cheung Sha Wan Case") engaged the attention of the Full Court from the beginning of 1903 until Mr. Dennys resigned on 12th May, when it was still unfinished. In consequence of this resignation, the case was re-opened, the second hearing being lengthened by the admission of Solicitors, and it was not until the 18th February, 1904, that judgment was delivered by Mr. Gompertz. In intervals between Full Court sittings, Mr. Gompertz dealt with disputed claims in Islands near Hongkong; and on visits of inspection to the office at Tai Po, he gave such decisions as time would allow. How the residue of disputes and the mass of undisputed material were dealt with, have been shown in the separate reports appended to this paper. Generally as to the speed of the work of the Land Court, it is gratifying to note that while the Indian Survey Staff returned to India in May, 1904, the Land Court was able to submit its final report at the close of the same year.

Crown Rent Rolls—In 1903 the Land Court undertook the preparation of a Crown Rent Roll, the total amount entered being \$53,630.77. This early Crown Rent Roll was based on claims laid in the Land Court. At present the Land Court is preparing a permanent Crown Rent Roll based on draft Crown Leases which amounts to over \$90,000.00.

Conclusion—All the records of the Land Court are now transferred to the Land Office and one phase of the settlement is finally closed. It has been the object throughout of the Court to avoid handing over to the Government as

Crown Land without a specific recommendation areas on which are settled *bona fide* occupants whose claims Government would feel itself bound to enquire into at some later date. It is hoped that this object has been attained.

The actual expenditure on the Land Court since its commencement up to the end of last year was \$143,615.07.

"ONE SUMMER'S DAY."

A.D.C. PERFORMANCE.

Major Dick Rudyard Mr. C. A. Grace
Phil Marsden Mr. Anderson
Theodore Bendyshe, painter Mr. Mowbray S. Northcote
Robert Hoddesden Mr. J. Hays
Tom, his nephew Mr. Davies
Beth, a gipsy Major Chapman
The Urchin Mr. P. Tester
Irene, Hoddesden's niece Miss Blair
Maysie, his ward Mrs. Grace
Mrs. Theodore Bendyshe Miss Wakefield
Beas, a gipsy Miss Hazeland
Chiara, a gipsy Mrs. Webb

One Summer's Day is described in the advertisement as a comedy in three acts, but if by comedy is meant a play in which mirth predominates we should hesitate to say that this composition of Mr. Esmond's fully answers to the description, for the audience is more impressed with the pathos than with the comedy of the piece, and the *denouement* is much more likely to move the audience to tears than to laughter. But whatever opinion may be entertained as to the correctness of its description, it is a play in which there is scope for very fine acting, and the manner in which it is staged by the A.D.C. is worthy of the best traditions of the Club.

The story of the piece is woven round Major Dick Rudyard who has adopted the son of a deceased friend and has become devotedly attached to the youngster. Major Dick's friend had married a charming young gipsy girl, but whatever the attractions the new mode of life had possessed for her they soon lost their charm and she returned to the freedom of nomadic life, deserting the son as well as the husband. The latter dies soon afterwards and the child is adopted by his father's intimate friend, Major Dick Rudyard, who had given the dying man a promise to act the father to the orphan. The promise is being honourably fulfilled; Major Dick has become devotedly fond of the boy, and is anxious to conceal from him the story of his father's indiscretion.

The curtain rises on a scene in which a couple of gipsy women (one being the mother of the boy) are hatching a scheme to blackmail the Major. This scheme is developed later by Chiara (the mother) and a male associate whose game it is to make Major Dick pay an annuity for keeping a darling child away from his fond mother. The boy had meanwhile reached the stage of adolescence and there is a chance meeting of the boy and mother whose maidenly charms had not lost their potency. The boy is soon over head and ears in love, and makes a very serious business of it indeed. An eccentric artist who also chances to meet the gipsy has a consuming desire to paint her as a modern Cleopatra, and there is an amusing scene when an urchin, who has, unobserved, watched from a tree all the loving-making, brings the rival lovers almost to blows over the rightful ownership of the adorable but wayward Chiara.

Another love scene is developed in which Major Dick and a friend of his are in love with the same young lady. Major Dick however dissembles his love. In his anxiety to conceal the history of his ward, he poses as a widower and a sour misogynist. Maysie is secretly in love with the Major and is pained when he affects to urge her marriage with the other fellow. At an inopportune moment the gipsy woman, who has been dogging his footsteps for months, past confronts the Major in the presence of Maysie. He instantly recognises her and is dumbstruck. Maysie learning from him that the woman is the mother of Tom, is overwhelmed with grief as she concludes that the Major is not a widower, as he had represented himself to be. Her grief develops into hate; still the Major struggles against the impulse to undeceive her. He had promised Marsden that he should marry Maysie, and that end which he had sought to further would, he knew, be frustrated by a confession of the fact

that he was not the husband of the gipsy. At this point the boy gets run over in the street and is killed. Maysie overcomes her hatred in the presence of the Major's intense grief, and Marsden who knows that his ardent affection for Maysie is not reciprocated with the same intensity of feeling discloses to Maysie the true story of Major Dick and his ward and the curtain finally drops on an affecting scene of reconciliation between Maysie and the Major.

The outline of the story of the play will certainly prove to the reader that "One Summer's Day" has plenty of comic situations, and they were made the most of; yet the pathetic element is so strongly accentuated that by the time the curtain drops on the closing scene one arrives at the conclusion that the play were better described as a melodrama.

Mr. Grace's impersonation of the leading character was a superb piece of acting, but having regard to the impression one carries away of the "comedy" one is inclined to wonder whether he does not take the part more seriously than the writer of the comedy intended. Certainly his is the dominating influence and his finished performance evoked unanimous appreciation. Equally meritorious was Mrs. Grace's impersonation of Maysie, a somewhat difficult role played with a charm and realism meriting the highest compliments. The presence of Mr. and Mrs. Grace on the stage is always welcome, and the high expectations their names in a caste excite are never disappointed.

Mrs. Webb has never appeared to better advantage than in the part of Chiara, the gipsy, mother of Tom, the only noticeable fault in her acting being a failure to consistently disguise her speech. The same fault was noticeable in Miss Hazeland's small part as a gipsy which otherwise was creditably taken. Mr. Davies, as Tom, had a responsible part to fill and filled it successfully throughout, and Mr. Tester's impersonation of the urchin was admirably life-like. Major Chapman's rôle as a gipsy could not have been placed in better hands, and we have a word of appreciation also for the amusing part of the uncle, taken by Mr. John Hays, as well as for the more difficult character of the eccentric painter amusingly portrayed by Mr. Mowbray Northcote. The rival lover is a character frequently figuring in comedies, and seldom satisfactorily presented, but we can honestly award to Mr. Anderson high praise for his acting of the part of Phil Marsden. Miss Blair and Miss Wakefield who had minor parts to perform filled them in a most satisfactory manner, and on the whole the piece went excellently, though in the first act it showed a little inclination to drag.

The stage manager, Major Philipps, is to be complimented on the excellent staging of the piece, and the performance of "One Summer's Day" can certainly be numbered among the great successes of the A.D.C.

JEWS IN CHINA.

On Sunday evening at the Y.M.C.A. Mr. J. Dyer Ball lectured on Jews in China. During the course of his remarks he said:—

At Hongkong's City Hall library in a glass case is a large Hebrew roll, containing the Pentateuch. There is a most interesting history connected with this, for it was brought to Shanghai from the interior by messengers sent from that settlement about the middle of last century.

The inclusion of a small company of the Jewish people in the heart of the Chinese Empire is a curious feature in the religious aspect of the country. It has long been known that there are Jews in China, but we desire more information as to their numbers, condition in the past, and different points of residence. At one time they were thousands in number, but they have melted away, and their zeal, if they ever possessed much of it, has died away under the benumbing influence of the surrounding heathenism.

Between two and three centuries ago some Jesuits discovered a Jewish colony in the city of Kai-fong-fu in the province of Honan. Great was the interest excited in Europe by this dis-

covery. Christianity was deeply interested in these further instances of the confirmation of scripture, and in more relics of the peculiar people who are everywhere witnesses of the "goodness and severity of God." The printed Plantinian Bible of these Jews compared with the titles and endings of the five books of Moses corresponded exactly, except that the writing had no vowel points. The synagogue, now in ruins, was a building of about sixty by forty feet, covered by a fourfold and handsome roof, having a portico with a double row of four columns, and a balustrade before it. The whole place of worship occupied a space of between three and four hundred feet in length, by about a hundred and fifty feet in breadth, comprised in four successive courts.

Among the religious forms and customs of these people in those days may be enumerated the putting off of the shoes on entering the house of prayer, and the wearing of blue head-dress while there. In reading the law the minister covered his face with a transparent veil of gauze, in imitation of Moses who brought the law to the people with his face covered, and wore a red silk scarf depending from the right shoulder and tied under the left arm. By his side stood a monitor to correct his reading, if necessary, who likewise was attended by a monitor. The prayers were chanted, but without musical instruments. The congregation wore no *talith*, or garment of fringes, during the service. They observed circumcision, pass-over, tabernacles, the rejoicing of the law, and perhaps, the Day of Atonement, for on one day of the year they fasted and wept together in the synagogue. They kept the sabbath as strictly as the Jews in Europe, made no proselytes, and never married with the Gentiles. They had no formulary of belief, but held to the unity of God, and to the doctrines of heaven, hell, a sort of purgatory, the resurrection of the dead, the day of judgment, and the hierarchies of angels. Of Christ they had never heard. They expected the Messiah, and frequently repeated the words of dying Jacob "I have waited for Thy salvation, O Lord."

Their alienation from idolatry is particularly striking after so long an exposure to the superstitions of the country which were guided by imperial influence. They refused to take an oath in an idol temple, and the conspicuous inscriptions upon the walls and arches of their temples proclaimed their steadfastness in this matter, even upon that delicate point of the Emperor's name which in the synagogue they had surmounted by the most significant of possible warnings against confounding any reverence whatever with that due to the "blessed and only potentate." They prayed westward, towards Jerusalem.

Permission to erect this synagogue in China was obtained from the Emperor in A.D. 1,163. From several inscriptions in the synagogue it was learned that the Jews came to China in either between B.C. 205 and A.D. 220 (in the Han dynasty), or between B.C. 1,122 and A.D. 249 (in the Chow dynasty). Their own account of arrival thither is merely that their forefathers came from the west, probably by way of Khorassan and Samerkand, the main route of incient commerce in that direction. Their use of Persian words has been connected with this circumstance.

The ancient Jews in China have practically all now died out, one community after another being engulfed by Mahomedan or other influences. A mission of enquiry was despatched, to their last centre mentioned, by the Bishop of Victoria (Hongkong) under the auspices of a Jewish society in London. The two Chinese who were sent had a long and tedious journey of 25 days, 600 miles by land and water, before reaching this city. Here they found a few Jewish families surrounded by Mahomedans (two-thirds of the population of this city were of the latter persuasion), and by heathens. The Jews were very poor, but still kept themselves separate from their surroundings. None could read the oracles of Jehovah in the Hebrew, and the last of their Rabbis had then been dead for fifty years. The hope of the expected Messiah was forgotten. Their synagogue was in ruins. Originally seventy families they had. A remnant of seven households only was left, their little community numbering but 200 souls. Some were shopkeepers, some farmers and a few lived in their temple precincts with scarce sufficient in the

way of clothing or roof to shelter them. They had petitioned the Chinese Emperor to have pity on them and repair their temple, but with no response, and part of the fallen material had been sold to the heathen.

Well might they have cried "O God, the heathen are come into thy inheritance, thy holy temple have they defile. We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us."

CHINESE BUSINESS AFFECTED.

HOW INTERNAL REVENUE ACT IMPOSES HARD-SHIPS ON CHINESE IN BUSINESS IN PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

"The business of the Chinese merchants in the Philippines is being crippled for want of clerical help. The internal revenue law necessitates an elaborate system of book-keeping, and the immigration laws are such that we are prohibited from importing the only class of people who can help us out, namely, fellow countrymen who understand our own language."

The above remark was made by the Chinese Consul for Manila, to a *Cablenews* man.

"The Chinese do not object to the amount of money which they have to contribute toward the expenses of the government, 'the consul continued, 'but they do object to the troublesome way in which it is collected. If we could only get through with the business without the vast amount of routine necessary at present we might manage to get on in the old way without the bookkeepers which we are prohibited from bringing in. As it is, we are asked to do a thing and then deprived of the only means at our disposal of carrying out the command."

When asked why Filipino bookkeepers were not employed, the consul replied with a smile that in the first place the Filipino bookkeeper does not understand Chinese, and in the second place, well, the consul was too polite to say out-and-out that the two races were too antagonistic to ever get on as master and servant, but he evidently meant this to be inferred.

As for the new internal revenue law in general, he is not in favour of it. He pronounces it an antiquated system discarded by the United States years ago. Thus far, while Collector Hord has done all in his power to prevent imposition and fraud being practised upon the Chinese by unscrupulous people palming themselves off as internal revenue agents, nevertheless there is considerable of that sort of thing going on.

While the law requires that an agent must produce on demand his license printed in Chinese, Spanish and Tagalog, yet the Chinaman does not feel like holding up every respectable looking man who enters his place of business and claim to be an agent of the internal revenue department, and as a result frauds are committed.

The method, the consul explained, is simple enough. The supposed agent enters the shop, begins to find fault with this thing and that, and finally hints that he will overlook the many irregularities for a consideration. The money is paid and nothing more is said about the matter.

In one case the consul feels morally certain that a certain disreputable Chinaman has been working in collusion with a real secret service man to fleece the more ignorant class of Chinese.

On the whole the American occupation has greatly changed the business of the Chinese in the Philippines, he continued. The legislation against Chinese immigration was begun about a year after the Americans arrived, but for some time exclusion applied only to labourers. Since then, however, the law has been made more and more strict, until now it is impossible for the Chinese colony even to bring in a Chinese physician.

Two branches of trade have developed of late among the Chinese of the islands, according to the consul's story. One is American flour, and the other Filipino sugar. Of course the first industry is due wholly to American occupation, and has led to a great influx (so long as they could get in at all) of Cantonese from Hongkong who had learned the flour business there. For this reason the number of Cantonese in the archipelago has increased in recent years about 70 per cent., they now

forming nearly one-third of the entire Chinese population.

In regard to the sugar trade between the Philippines and China, the consul thinks there is a bright outlook for the Chinese merchants here in the islands who have capital enough with which to carry on the business. With the loss of Formosa to the Japanese, the principal source of sugar for the Chinese market was cut off, and the cultivation of the product on the mainland has by no means kept pace with the rapidly growing demand. The Chinese merchants in the Philippines, understanding the commercial conditions here and the peculiarities of the situation in the home country, are in a fair way, the consul thinks, to build up a flourishing business.

But through all that he said ran the larger wish that his countrymen might be allowed to enter the islands unrestricted, and compete with the world in the development of the country.

When asked for his opinion about the effect upon the Chinese empire of the present war, he was slow to express an opinion, but finally acknowledged that there was no doubt in his mind but what the whole vast Chinese Empire would before very long be inspired by the Japanese and become an armed camp like the nations of Europe.

"But you cannot understand how our people love peace," he added with an indulgent smile which told plainly of an attitude toward war existing in the ancient empire which the western barbarian cannot comprehend.—*Manila Cablenews*.

FORESTRY AT HONGKONG.

Mr. Dunn in his annual report says:—
REVENUE FOR 1904.

Sale of Forestry Products	...	\$18,208.34
Sale of Plants	...	738.94
Loan of Plants	...	492.16
Forestry Licences in New Territory	...	5,764.00

Total... \$25,201.44

Felling and replanting on the basis of a 25-year rotation were commenced this year.

The question of what is the best rotation for *Pinus massoniana* in Hongkong is, however, still open to doubt; experts differ on the point and H. E. the Governor has decided that no more felling shall take place until the results of this year's operations have been calculated and the whole question put before an independent authority.

The heavy work of replanting was well in hand before the end of this year. A commencement was also made in afforesting the bare sandy hills behind Kowloon with 50,000 pine seedlings.

Forestry Licences in the New Territory.—When the New Territory was taken over by the British in 1899 there were about as many large pine trees growing in the district as there are small ones now. The Chinese, being afraid that their new masters would confiscate the trees, began to cut them down wholesale. From the accounts which have been collected there must have been something like eight million disposed of in this way, a course which has been ere now, no doubt, bitterly repented; for as a matter of fact the only restriction enforced by the Police was with regard to the cutting down of large wild trees and Fung Shui trees round the villages. The confidence of the tree farmers towards English rule having become gradually re-established, and safety from encroachments by neighbouring owners being further secured by the presence of the Police, re-afforestation soon began. The scheme of defining and registering the plantations was therefore received in general with great readiness by the farmers, who came forward when called on and paid their licence fees. The scheme was designed to encourage the farmers to re-afforest by giving them secure tenure of the trees, to secure re-sowing of felled areas and to provide a proper demarcation of the ground in case of disputes. The superintendent, accompanied by the newly appointed Licensing Clerk, visited about 80 per cent. of the plantations between August and December, issuing about 300 licences and collecting \$5,700.00 in licence fees. The fees were at the rate of 10 cents per acre so that the total acreage licensed is about 57,000 acres. In several cases disputes arose in consequence of the wrong persons having come forward and

secured licences for plantations to which they had no right; the proper owners in spite of repeated notices and warnings failing to present themselves until they found the licensee cutting down their trees.

China New Year Shrub. (*Enkianthus quinqueflorus*).—This shrub, which is one of the most beautiful of all our rich shrub flora, has yearly been becoming more and more scarce on the hills in consequence of the amount that has been cut by the Chinese at each New Year to sell for decorations. If the cutting had been judicious little harm would have been done, but in consequence of the ruthless destruction of whole shrubs the species was, at any rate in this Island, on its way to extinction, an eventuality which would suit the Chinese as little as the other nature-loving residents. An effort was therefore made at the proper time to protect our hills and, although there appears to have been a plentiful supply of the shrub in the market, the greater part of it must have come from Canton, for very little cutting took place in Hongkong and the New Territory.

Aleurites cordata.—The flourishing plantation of young Tung Yan trees at Kang Hau Nursery was further increased by a thousand plants raised from seed obtained from the interior.

Cassia.—Twelve forlorn Cassia trees (*Cinnamomum Cassia*), possibly the last of the large numbers planted out on the hills in former years, were rescued from a valley near Aberdeen, where they had been almost killed by the repeated stripping off of their valuable bark by the Chinese, and transplanted into the Government Nursery at Sookunpo.

Pollard Pine-trees.—During the Forestry Licence rounds a system of cultivating the local (*Pinus massoniana*) was met with at Lung Ko Tan, which is, so far as can be ascertained, unique. In this method the same advantages are aimed at as by the well known European system of pollarding. But the pollarding of coniferous trees seems to be unknown in Europe. The exact method employed with the Pines here is as follows: At 10 years old when the tree is about 12 feet high the top half is cut off. After five years more the lower branches are cut off. Shoots soon appear from the cut parts and these are cut every five years together with the upper remaining internode—this tree produces annual whorles of branches—until, after 20 to 25 years, the whole is used up. This method is not used in any other part of the New Territory. The Hakka families who practise it believe that they came from Wei Chou in North-East Kwantung about 150 years ago.

STREET TREES.

In connection with the new Tramway, 17 Banyans were transplanted near Causeway Bay and in Arsenal Street.

Forty-five Albizzia and 28 Celtis were planted in the West part of Des Voeux Road. In fine weather in summer this road is one of the most mercilessly hot and glaring spots in the town. It will be greatly benefitted by the freshness and shade of these trees.

AGRICULTURE IN THE COLONY.

Cattle food.—In cooperation with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, some experiments were made by the Botanical and Afforestation Department last year with a view to ascertain whether any of the common evergreen trees of the district could provide sustenance for cattle during the winter season. Six kinds of leaves were tried—*Ficus retusa*, *Quercus salicina*, *Quercus fissa*, *Bambusa sp.*, *Hibiscus sp.*, *Sterculia lanceolata*. The first four were probably too hard and dry, and the Bamboo leaves proves injurious; the *Sterculia* leaves were, however, readily eaten and might in conjunction with rice-straw prove a serviceable food.

Adoption of European methods by Chinese.—Advice was sought on several occasions by Hongkong merchants as to the supply of chemical fertilizers, etc., to farmers in the interior. European gardening tools are also said to be in request.

Fisal Hemp.—Continues to do well. It is on poor stony ground and might, if successful, provide a valuable new industry for the New Territory farmers and at the same time utilize ground that is now of little value.

Cotton.—Arrangements were made for commencing experiments on Cotton-growing at the commencement of the rains. Great interest attaches to these trials and every effort will be

made to render them a success. The first crops will not be gathered until next Autumn, when the result will be calculated and fully reported.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

"LOONGSANG" SIGHTS WAR-VESSELS

The Indo China s.s. *Loongsang* arrived from Manila on April 16. At about 3.30 a.m. on the 15th instant, about 35 miles north-west of the Capones Lighthouse, she sighted four men-of-war steaming in a south-easterly direction. They passed at a considerable distance off, and were soon out of sight.

SHOTS FIRED ACROSS THE "BRUNHILDE'S" BOWS.

On the 13th instant, while on a voyage from Bangkok to Hongkong with a cargo of rice, the German s.s. *Brunhilde* encountered the Baltic Fleet. At daylight the Russian ships were noticed on the horizon, and three cruisers, steaming it was estimated, at about twenty knots an hour, overhauled the *Brunhilde*. One of them made signals which the *Brunhilde* did not discern, and then two shots were fired across the vessel's bows. The *Brunhilde* stopped. The cruiser then put off a boat with an officer and six men. The officer ordered three of his men on board to act as sentries. After the officer had examined the ship's papers, having spent about an hour on board altogether, he withdrew ordering the captain not to proceed till signalled. After about a quarter of an hour the cruiser signalled "You may proceed." This occurrence took place off Fisherman's Island, about six miles north of Cape Padaran, on the Annam Coast. The cruisers then returned to the fleet, steaming at high speed. The Fleet, steering about N.N.E. disappeared over the horizon before long.

SAILORS AFRAID OF THE "BALTICERS."

Twenty-two of the crew of the s.s. *St. Helena* were on April 16th charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland (First Police Magistrate) with obstructing the navigation of that vessel by refusing to proceed to Japan. The men signed on articles to proceed in the ship between certain latitudes. After loading a cargo of coal at Cardiff the vessel received instructions to proceed to Hongkong for orders. At Gap Rock the Captain received orders by signal, to proceed to Sasebo, Japan. The men struck work, being afraid to run with contraband, and the ship put into Hongkong.

Mr. Hazeland said that at present there was no risk. The men had signed a specific agreement to go to certain parts in which Japan was included, and by now refusing they were breaking that agreement and must bear consequences. The men still refused. His Worship sentenced them to three weeks' imprisonment, the men to be replaced on board the vessel should she return to this port before expiration of their sentences.

The captain of the s.s. *Battersea Bridge* charged fourteen of his crew for the same offence. They were convicted and received the same sentence as the others.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS SIGHTED:

The *Manila Cablenews* of the 12th inst. says:—The German steamer *M. Struve* arrived here yesterday morning with a cargo of rice from Saigon. Her Captain reports having sighted two Japanese battleships on Monday (10th inst.) morning heading south.

FURTHER REPORTS.

The s.s. *North Anglia* arrived from the west with a cargo of coal on April 16. On her passage from Colombo to Hongkong she sighted the Baltic Fleet. It was at about two o'clock on the morning of the 12th inst., in Latitude 7.19 North, Longitude 107.59 East. The vessel was practically stopped at the time, for she had broken down on the previous day. A number of mast-head lights showed up on the horizon astern, twenty-one or twenty-two altogether. Before long the vessels' side-lights also were to be seen. The *North Anglia* then increased her speed to about six knots, and the Russians, becoming suspicious no doubt, sent a scout to investigate. For fully forty minutes a search light was directed on the *North Anglia*, and later the performance was repeated for another long period. The fleet overtook the collier, passing about four miles distant. The ship was neither molested nor signalled. At daylight the fleet was low down on the horizon ahead.

The *North Anglia's* cargo was manifested for Hongkong.

CHEERED BY FRENCH SAILORS.

The French steamer *Phuyen* arrived from Saigon yesterday with a cargo of rice. At 7 a.m. on the morning of the 15th instant she saw about twenty ships of the Baltic Fleet in Camranh Bay, to the North of Padaran; and many other ships, it was concluded, were out of sight in the inner bay. Torpedo boats and destroyers were actively steaming about at the approach to the harbour. They appeared in very good condition. As the little craft pitched in the sea, no sea grass could be seen on them. At Saigon rumour had it that the vessels of the Baltic Fleet were very dirty, but the vessels, according to one of the *Phuyen's* officers, looked "just as if they were leaving port." At Saigon some people thought that a Japanese Fleet near Singapore would get sandwiched between the main and third squadrons of the Baltic Fleet. The French sailors on the *Phuyen* gave three cheers when the Russian warships were close, and they met with a loud response. No other signals were made.

AFRAID TO PROCEED.

Nine of the crew of the s.s. *Lincolshire* were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court yesterday with refusing to continue their voyage to Japan.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. Brutton's office) appeared to prosecute, and the Captain stated that the men signed articles to proceed to ports, in which Japanese ports were included. He had a cargo of rice on board, and was bound for Yokohama, but the defendants refused to proceed owing to the proximity of the Russian fleet.

The defendants informed His Worship that they were afraid to proceed.

His Worship in dismissing the case, held that there were reasonable grounds for their refusing to proceed. He recommended that other proceedings should be taken before the Harbour Master.

COTTON-CULTURE IN KOREA.

The trial planting of American and Indian Cotton at Mok-ho and neighbourhood is said to have been successfully made by the Japanese. As there is but a little precipitation of rain in Korea, its soil is well suited for cotton culture and sericulture. This is especially true of the former, if the methods of its cultivation are developed and the seeds are carefully selected. Under such circumstances, the effort seems to have a promising future, and the whole produce will easily find a ready market as spinning material in Japan.

SHANGHAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Mr. W. D. Little is re-elected chairman, and Mr. A. Wright vice-chairman.—The Chairman undertook to see the Doyen of the Diplomats at Peking, and to draw his attention to the apparent prospect of an excessive coinage of Chinese cash.—Mr. L. E. Canning succeeds as secretary vice M. Leslie J. Cubitt resigned.—Correspondence with regard to delayed mails and to late delivery of goods by manufacturers, was published.

Reporting a native murder, the *Times of Ceylon* says:—It appears that, in accordance with a common village custom, whereby a man engages himself to the head of a family to render services free of payment to the latter on the understanding that on the latter's daughter coming of age he is to be received as her acknowledged fiancée, and, in course of time, to be wedded to her, an old woman had permitted a man to dwell in her house. However, it seems that a more suitable offer was made for the hand of the girl, whereupon the mother attempted to throw the former lover over, the daughter apparently consenting to this new arrangement. The rejected suitor, it is alleged, entered the house and seizing the girl by the waist, stabbed her to death. No less than fourteen knife wounds were inflicted. The man is alleged to have next seized the girl's mother and also stabbed her to death.

A CHINESE DICK TURPIN.

The "native notes" in our Shanghai contemporary recently included the following very interesting story of a lawless young Chinaman's career. He died in the "cage" at Shanghai on the 2nd inst. "and probably disappointed a number of persons who were anxious to snapshot him." A brief sketch of the young desperado may be of interest to show that in his case, any way, the theory of "total depravity" must have found a practical home in his physical structure almost from his birth. At the tender age of thirteen Chu Ah-san had already identified himself with a gang of youthful ruffians much older than himself in such a way that despite his difference of age he was easily recognised as their leader. Robbing in broad daylight country rustics who had come into town to buy things, or who, having sold the products of their farms, were returning to the country, were matters of almost every day occurrence with Chu Ah-san and his youthful fellow-ruffians who bade fair to outrival the deeds of their elder brethren of the same ilk. At this point five years ago, or so, the youngster's evil career was cut short for the nonce by his arrest by yamen "runners," for the Shanghai magistrate taking into consideration Chu Ah-san's extreme youth wished to reform him and so had him sent to the "Kai Kuo-so," or Reformatory, in the native city. Total depravity was, however, so deeply ingrained in the youngster's character that the usual sentence of three years' incarceration in such cases was lengthened to five in the Reformatory, after which, as it was thought he might have repented somewhat of the errors of his ways, Chu Ah-san was liberated by the Shanghai magistrate at the earnest prayer of the youthful ruffian's unfortunate mother, a timid-looking woman with a sad, wan face. This was just a fortnight ago. Once at liberty, Chu immediately rejoined his erstwhile rowdy companions, by this time grown up to be men of from twenty-five to thirty years of age and all "wanted" for some evil deed or other by the authorities. One can easily imagine what a band like this would do—reinforced as it was by the leading spirit of its former years—a host in himself. As a natural sequence, within ten days of his liberation Chu Ah-san was found to have been guilty of thirteen cases of outlawry, by means of which he was able to clothe himself from head to feet in expensive fur robes and silk inner clothing; display half-a-dozen heavy rings of pure gold on his fingers, and have unlimited funds in hard cash and bank-notes in a large baglike silken purse. The result was that he was rearrested last Saturday morning and once more brought before the Shanghai magistrate to answer for his sins. The magistrate, still pitying the youth on account of his age, told the young desperado that he would have to return to the Reformatory for another five years, whereupon Chu Ah-san cried out—"Oh yes! after five years I will come out again, but where will you be, old fellow? I can guarantee you won't be chihsien here when I come out again." "Then I will have you incarcerated twenty years," replied the Magistrate. "All right," declared Chu Ah-san, "I will try to break gaol the first chance I can get, and then you may be sure, laot'ou'rh (old fellow), that I will kill you for it. It will be either your life or mine, that's all." The look of determination in the young desperado's face showed the magistrate that he need expect no mercy from the former should he obtain his liberty, and as it was a case of "your life or mine," the magistrate, after a pause, said: "Since you say so I had better make away with you, after all." "That will not make the slightest difference," quoth Chu Ah-san; "if I die now, in twenty years hence I'll be a hero on earth once more"—alluding to the Buddhist belief in the transmigration of souls. The Magistrate then ordered Chu Ah-san to be placed in the fatal standing cage, but just before doing so the unfortunate mother of the young ruffian prostrated herself before the magistrate and prayed that she should be allowed to take her son's fur clothes and pawn them to purchase a coffin for him. Permission was given her to do so, and the woman, after a while brought one to the yamen (just as her son was stepping into the cage) to show it to the magistrate. The coffin being only a twelve-

dollar one, on seeing it the unnatural young ruffian cried out to his weeping mother, "Here, you lao-t'ai-p'o (old hag), I won't have that flimsy and cheap old coffin. My fur clothes must have brought more than \$12 from the pawnshop. I must have a better one, or none at all." Chu Ah-san would have said more, but at a sign from the Magistrate he was hustled into his cage, and under the escort of soldiers, several of the newly-organised Japanese modelled native city police, and some yamen "runners" the cage was hurried off to the West-gate for the public gaze. On his way to certain prospective death the young ruffian is said to have sung ribald songs and made remarks on passers-by, especially women, which need not be repeated here.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 8th April, 1905.—Long-reels.—A further decline in exchange has made transactions easier during the last fortnight; but dealers have now put up prices so high that business is momentarily checked. Features 9/11 and especially 10/12 command full prices; nevertheless they are very difficult to contract for. Stocks are decreasing rapidly; some filatures have already closed their supply of cocoons being exhausted. From sales made we quote: Fils. On Wo Hing 9/11 and Kai Lun Cheong 9/11 at \$980; Cheong Hing 10/12 at \$885; Lai Fun Lung 10/12 at \$1574; Yuk Wo Hing 20/12 at \$854; Kwang Shun Hang 11/13 at \$880; Kun wa Lun 11/13 at \$865; Tung Wo Hing 11/13 at \$860; Wing King Lun 13/15 at \$830; Wa Lun Cheong 16/18 at \$770; Yee Wo Cheong 18/22 at \$735; Quan Wo Hing 11/13-13/15 14/18 at \$745; Tung On 11/13-13/15-14/18 at \$750; Tung Wo 12/15-14/18 at \$730; Yee Wo Hing 16/20-18/22 at \$670. Short reels.—With the easier attitude of holders, quite a good business with America sprang up at the beginning of the fortnight; but at the close dealers are much firmer; they ask \$865 for Kwan Wo Hing 14/16 and \$830 for Fils. Extra A 14/16. Waste Silk.—There has been a little more enquiry from the home markets, and a few transactions have been booked at somewhat irregular prices, according to the financial situation of holders. Stock.—Raw Silk, 1,200 Bales.

RICE.

Messrs. W. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 7th April, 1905, states:—Owing to the short arrivals of grain from the interior, and millers having to fulfil large contracts falling due this month, prices have again risen so considerably as to check all business.

We quote for May to June delivery:—

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam milled (mixed).....	per picul
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) steam milled (mixed).....	\$3.78
5 % Cargo steam milled (mixed).....	\$3.40
10 % Cargo steam milled ".....	\$3.25
20 % Cargo steam milled ".....	\$3.15

* Prices according to terms and conditions.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG 19th April, 1905.—Since the 6th April, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian.				
Stocks as per circular of 6th April, 1905.	1,624	3,262	1,059	2,240
April 7th Imports per Coromandel 84	—	—	—	100
" 11th " " C. Apcar	—	95	—	—
" 17th " " Nam Sang	—	50	25	—
	1,708	3,407	1,084	2,340
Less Exports to Shanghai	20	128	111	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.....	91	800	238	184

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,597 2,479 635 2,176
Bengal.—The market has improved owing to the very satisfactory off-take which has reduced stocks considerably. We quote Patna at \$1,180 and Benares at \$1,1524.

Malwa.—The demand has been on a very small scale indeed. The consumption is not satisfactory. We quote as follows:—

New	\$1,100
2 years old	\$1,150
3 " "	\$1,180
4/5 " "	\$1,250
Oldest	\$1,340

Persian.—Market is firm.

HONGKONG, 19th April.

Quotations are:— Allowances not to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1180	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1180	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1260	to	—	do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1340	to	—	do.
Persian fine quality	\$950	to	—	do.
Persian extra fine	\$980	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$11774	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	\$ —	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$11524	to	—	do.
Benares Old	\$ —	to	—	do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of April 20th state that 16 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 62,800 tons of Japan coal and 11,900 tons of Cardiff. Since 7th April 18,500 tons of Japan coal and 33,400 tons of Cardiff coal have arrived. The market has somewhat improved. Quotations:—
Cardiff.....\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian.....\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miiki Lump.....\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump.....\$8.00 to 10 50 ex-ship, steady.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co's Coal Report, dated Shanghai, April 18th, states:—The market is very firm for good kinds, and is nearly exhausted excepting for a considerable quantity of common stuff. There is a great scarcity in Japan owing to the difficulty of transport from the mines to ports of shipment, the bulk of the cars and locomotives having been taken by the government for their own purposes. How long this condition of affairs is to last it is impossible to predict.

COTTON.

HONGKONG 20th April.—Fair business in good quality, while in others more or less neglected. Stock about 5,000 bales.

Bombay.....	\$19.00 to 21.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon }	21.50 to 2.400 "
and Dacca	"
Shanghai and Japanese,	25.00 to 26.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	25.00 to 26.00 "

Reported sales 700 bales.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his Report, dated Hongkong 20th April, says:—The demand still continues, but is not at all general, and continues to favour special counts and spinnings. Settlements have been comparatively large, and values here and there show a slight appreciation. Stocks held in the interior are said to be very light, and although our dealers are in possession of considerable country orders, they seem to be pursuing a very cautious policy, and instead of buying in large lines on limited times, are spreading their purchases in small lots, which without unduly inflating prices is keeping the market depressed. Receipts during the interval have not kept pace with the off-takes and our stocks show a substantial decrease on last estimate. The market closes quiet but steady.

Local Manufacture:—There has been some movement in these threads, and sales of 500 bales No. 10s and 400 bales No. 12s at \$106 and \$108 respectively are reported.

Japanese Yarn:—Is firmer owing to small stocks and better enquiry; 200 bales No. 12s at \$132 to \$133, and 80 bales No. 82s at \$173; having changed hands during the interval.

Raw Cotton:—Indian descriptions continue to move steadily, and sales of 800 bales superfine Bengals at \$214 to \$234 are reported; unsold stock 6,000 bales. In China kinds 200 bales (small) are reported sold at \$25, leaving an unsold stock of 300 bales on the market. Quotations are Bengal \$19 to \$234 and Chinese \$22 to \$284.

Exchange on India, in sympathy with barailver, has taken an upward turn, and closes to-day at Rs. 1384 for T/T and Rs. 1384 for Post. On Shanghai 72 and on Yokohama 904.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended 10th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Demand has somewhat subsided. Total sales 1,600 bales, prices generally being well maintained, and in special shops of No. 20s show an advance of half to one tael. Estimated unsold stock about 43,000 bales.

Japanese:—Continue firm, demand keeping pace with supplies. Sales amount to 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 984 to 109 for No. 16s and Tls. 102 to 109 for No. 20s, Common No. 16s showing an appreciation of half a tael, and No. 20s of one to two taels in value.

Local:—Attracting more attention, and sales of 2,500 bales have been effected on the basis of Tls. 86 to 87 for No. 10s, Tls. 88 to 884 for No. 12s, Tls. 89 to 894 for No. 14s, and Tls. 91 to 914 for No. 16s.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, 20th April.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$90.00 to 128.00	
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00	
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00	
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00	
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00	

Reported sales 3,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—8 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25	
7 lbs.	2.80 to 2.40	
8.4 lbs.	8.00 to 4.00	
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30	
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd.	2.80 to 3.00	
58 to 60 "	8.10 to 3.60	
64 to 66 "	8.80 to 5.40	
Fine	6.10 to 8.00	
Book-folds	5.80 to 8.10	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.00	
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.80	
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.70 to 3.00	
6 lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70	
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.90 to 3.20	
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80	
Drills, English—40 yds., 18 1/2 " to 14 lbs.	5.10 to 8.00	

FANCY COTTONS—		
Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs.	1.75 to 5.50	

		per yard
Brocades—Dyed	0.18 1/2 to 0.14 1/2	
Damasks	—	
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 1/2 to 0.20	
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.50	
Velveteens—18 in.	0.21 to 0.23	

		per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.56 to 1.50	
WOOLLENS—		per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.70 to 2.50	
German	0.80 to 0.75	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.50 to 3.50	

		per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs.	7.50 to 9.00	
Assorted	7.65 to 9.15	
Camlets—Assorted	20.00 to 32.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches	18.00 to 21.00	
Assorted	—	
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —	

		per lb
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.65 to 1.80	

METALS—		per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.00 to —	
Square Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.00 to —	
Swedish Bar	4.05 to —	
Small Round Rod	4.35 to —	
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.20 to —	
Wire, 16/25 oz.	9.50 to —	
Wire Rope, Old	3.00 to —	
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.80 to —	
Australian	8.60 to —	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —	
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —	
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —	
Composition Nails	61.00 to —	
Japan Copper, Slabs	38.50 to —	
Tin	80.00 to —	

		per box
Tin-Plates	6.75 to —	
		per cwt.-cases
Steel 1/2 to 1	6.00 to —	
		per picul
Quicksilver ...	140.00 to —	
		per box
Window Glass	5.00 to —	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per M. M. steamer *Tonkin*, sailed on 18th April. For Marseilles:—417 bales raw silk, 400 bales waste silk, 134 bales pierced cocoons, 47 packages human hair, 45 cases provisions, 2 cases fans, 5 packages sundries. For Lyons:—308 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For St. Etienne:—15 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Prins Heinrich*, sailed on 12th April. For Colombo:—42 rolls matting. For Odessa:—5 cases bris les. For Genoa:—202 bales waste silk, 70 bales raw silk, 50 boxes cassia buds. For Antwerp:—105 bales bamboo scraps, 31 rolls matting, 5 cases human hair. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—21 bales feathers, 1 box feathers. For Amsterdam:—1 roll matting. For Rotterdam:—45 bales canes. For Lisbon:—3 cases curios. For Bremen:—126 rolls matting, 5 cases blackwoodware. For Bremen or Hamburg:—180 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—70 bales feathers, 67 bales canes, 23 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases essential oil, 1 case feathers. For London:—80 rolls matting. For Copenhagen:—168 rolls matting, 8 bales feathers.

EXCHANGE.

THURSDAY, 20th April.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	232 1/2
Credits 4 months' sight	236 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	190
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	45 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138 1/2
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	138 1/2
Bank, on demand	138 1/2
ON HANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	90 1/2
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	90 1/2
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	6 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	111 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61 1/2
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.65
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$55.60
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26 1/2

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 20th April, 1905.—Business has continued quiet during the week under review, but rates have been well maintained generally, and in some cases show improvements.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have improved with a few sales at \$785. The London rate has risen to £80. 10s. Nationals continue in request at \$37 without bringing any shares on the market.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Remain very dull with no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Sellers still rule the market and we have no transactions to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have found further small buyers at \$26 1/2. Indo-Chinas coming into demand the rate gradually rose to \$121 1/2 after sales at \$121, the market closing steady at the former rate. A small forward business at equivalent rates has been put through. The London rate remains unchanged at £11.15.0. Douglases have been done at \$34 1/2 and a few small lots could still be placed at that rate. Shell Transport's and Star Ferries remain quiet and neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled steady at \$222 to \$223, and with most of the settlement shares arranged for, shares appear to be scarce and any large demand at the closing price is not likely to be met. On time shares have changed hands at \$232 1/2 for August and at equivalent rates for nearer dates. Luzons have found further buyers at \$27.

MINING.—No change or business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled a little steadier with sales at \$203 and \$204, closing steady at the latter rate. Kowloon Wharves remain quiet and without business at \$107. Farnhams and Hongkew Wharves are quieter at \$156 and \$182 1/2 respectively. New Amoy Docks have further declined to \$21 1/2.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are still obtainable at \$129 without leading to business. Hotels have changed hands at \$140, and Kowloon Lands at \$39 1/2. Humphreys have improved to \$42.60 without bringing any shares on the market.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs remain at \$16 1/2 with no sales. The quotations for the other Mills are taken from Shanghai.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dairy Farms have been placed at \$17 1/2. Green Islands at \$27 and \$17. St am Waterboats at \$18. New Steam Laundries at \$4 1/2 and China Providents at \$2 1/2. Watsons have improved to \$13 without sales.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$785, sales & buy
National B. of China	87	\$37, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$5 1/2
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$13, ex div.
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$8 1/2, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.	Tls. 50	Tls. 88
Hongkong	\$10	\$16 1/2, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 88 1/2, sales
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 121 1/2
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17 1/2, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 156
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$107, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$204, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$21 1/2, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 187 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$85, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$27
	\$5	\$17, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$210	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$17 1/2, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$11 1/2, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$140, sales
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$242, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$150, sales
H'kong S. Waterboat Insurance—	\$10	\$18, sales & buy.
Canton	\$50	\$285, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$56 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$810, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 85, sellers
Union	\$100	\$700, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$129, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12.60, buyers
Do. New	\$10	\$39 1/2, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	Tls. 115, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	\$55, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$400
Raubs	18/10	\$4, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$223
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$27, sales & buy.
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34 1/2, sales
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$26 1/2, sales
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$210	\$121 1/2, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	21/6
Do. Preference	\$210	\$28. 10s
Star Ferry	\$10	\$37 1/2
Do. New	\$5	\$28 1/2
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7
Do. New	\$3	\$4 1/2, sales & buy.
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11 1/2, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9 1/2
Do. Founders	\$10	\$180

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers

SHANGHAI FREIGHTS.

In their Freight Market Report of 18th inst. Messrs. Wheelock & Co., state:—Our homeward freight market is very quiet indeed and cargo is unusually backward considering the season of the year, there being very little cargo offering here in any direction and very little transshipment of cargo from the North or the Outports Coastwise.—The improvement noted in our last still continues, and there is a fair demand for tonnage trip-wise in various directions on the coast, as well as for coal from Japan to this, and the Moji-Shanghai rate has in consequence gone up to \$1.70 with an upward tendency. Inquiries on "Time," however, have been rather conspicuous by their absence lately, so many boats have been taken up on a monthly basis in Japan that all requirements have been practically filled at present.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 16, Barotse, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Brunhilde, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Sikh, British str., from Chefoo.
 17, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 17, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 17, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 17, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 17, North Anglia, British str., from Cardiff.
 17, Petrarch, German str., from Chefoo.
 17, Providence, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
 17, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 17, Themis, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
 17, Tonkin, French str., from Yokohama.
 18, Coningsby, British str., from Cardiff.
 18, Dumba, French str., from Marseilles.
 18, Erroll, British str., from Liverpool.
 18, Fri, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 18, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
 18, Islesworth, British str., from Saigon.
 18, Lydia, German str., from Wuhu.
 18, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 18, Phuyen, French str., from Saigon.
 18, Signal, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Amara, British str., from Wuhu.
 19, Dott, Norwegian str., from Sourabaya.
 19, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
 19, Lowther Castle, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
 19, Pinna, British str., from Singapore.
 19, Queen Louise, British str., from Rangoon.
- April—
 DEPARTURES.
 17, Barotse, British str., for London.
 17, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 17, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 17, Karoon, British str., for Nagasaki.
 17, Newton Hall, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Battersea Bridge, British str., for Sasebo.
 18, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
 18, Dumba, French str., for Shanghai.
 18, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 18, Fooshing, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Glenogle, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Indramayo, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Lincolnshire, British str., for Yokohama.
 18, Mathilde, German str., for Quimhon.
 18, Poona, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Promise, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 18, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 18, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
 18, Sikh, British str., for Natal.
 18, Teau, British str., for Manila.
 18, Tonkin, French str., for Europe.
 18, Wongkoi, German str., for Swatow.
 19, Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 19, Erroll, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 19, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, Loyal, German str., for Foochow.
 19, North Anglia, British str., for Sasebo.
 19, Pollux, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 19, Taiwan, British str., for Ningpo.
 19, Telemachus, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Empire*, from Sydney, &c., Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Finlayson, Miss Finlayson, Mr. W. Firth, Mr. and Mrs. Buckley, Mr. S. F. Palmer, Capt. A. Dorrier-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. Teschemaker, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lovett, Miss Lovett, Messrs. A. F. Craig, J. C. Barr, L. G. Johnson, F. J. Whitby, C. E. Rawlson, Mr. and Mrs. W. King, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hill, Mr. A. Beattie, Mr. and Mrs. Wakeford Cox and 2 children, Mr. J. F. Arundel, Mrs. M. Williams, Mr. N. H. Griffiths, Mr. A. J. Drexel, Miss A. Fawcus, Mr. and Mrs. N. Densham, Mr. and Mrs. Crosby, Miss Crosby, Messrs. Jas. Cumming, G. E. Cole, F. Jones, J. A. Flemming, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gillespie, Miss Gillespie, Miss Lyon, Messrs. K. Morita, H. Tallerman, P. Kleemo, B. E. Schirmer, C. B. Camm, F. J. Melhuish, C. J. Dashwood, M. A. Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Condon, Miss Harrison, Viscount de Montelo, Capt. J. I. dos Santos e Silva, Messrs. J. R. da Conceicao, J. E. P. da Trindade, Domingos de S. Barretto, P. J. A. da Silva Rozario, Mrs. D. M. A. de Montavias e Silva and 3 children, Mrs. D. S. Cadavarro, Mrs. D. Moura, Mr. F. Beaurepaire, Mr. and Mrs. H. Conway and child, Mr. and Mrs. Platt and 2 children, Messrs. F. P. Havier, A. Tarimba, F. P. Madeira, J. Augusto, V. Lopes Netto, F. Antonio, Mrs. Marcello, Messrs. Jose, Bertha Coqui, and Maria de Nives.

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Per *Dumba*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Miss Lotty, Mrs. Miguel Bedoyo and three children, Messrs. Martinez and G. Beaudier; from Colombo, Mr. Gillan; from Singapore, Mr. Platt; from Batavia via Singapore, Mr. Schenk; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Macaulay, Mr. Freaier, Mr. and Mrs. Launay, Messrs. Galimonova, Pineas, and Le Stang; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Perier, Kremer, Mr. and Mrs. Grigoroff, Mrs. Angier and child, Mr. Bouillard, Mrs. Emily and child, Mr. de Nully, Mrs. Chauvin, Mr. C. Lien, Mr. and Mrs. Amat, Mr. and Mrs. Ducoas, Mrs. Julien, Miss Oavier, and Miss Vion; from Bombay via Colombo, Messrs. Dalal and Khodayee, and Mrs. Wilson; from Colombo, Mr. Brownlord, Mrs. Gneiser, Mr. Proctor, Mrs. Smuskorki, Messrs. Groriz, Eilar, and M. Eilar; from Singapore, Messrs. Kirchner, Jean Micaille, Micaildas, Mace, Mr. and Mrs. Haim Moiche Sterker, Mrs. Clarogarestin, Messrs. Goslali, Vincentelli, Max Beauville, Mrs. Luc, Mr. and Mrs. Lavorel and child, Misses Ignard, Pezant, Leclere, and Periel; for Kobe, from Bombay via Colombo, Messrs. Jose and Bhult; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Tatekayama; from Singapore, Mrs. Hotsu Hisatsu; from Saigon, Miss Woodward; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Col. Cooke Collis, Messrs. Marguet and Louis Meere; from Bombay via Colombo, Messrs. Khamhatta, Moolger, and Rev. Blook; from Singapore, Col. Yate and Mr. Taiyuchi.

DEPARTED.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, for Kobe, Messrs. M. B. Mehta and Katami; for Yokohama, Capt. P. W. North.

Per *Shawmut*, for Moji, &c., Messrs. K. Abe, M. Abe, J. Yagi, A. M. dos Santos, H. P. Hoskyn, Geo. K. Hall Brutton, Mrs. Hall Wright, Messrs. H. Cameron, Y. Kashiwagi, Mrs. and Miss Scott and child, Miss Lichtenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Marquardt, Lieuts. Pressy and Baldwin, Major Mair, Capt. and Mrs. Loundes, Misses Seacombe, Foley, and Gilman, Capt. Marshall, Misses Clark and McGee, Mrs. Laok and infant, Mrs. Stewart, Lieut. and Mrs. Soula, Mr. and Mrs. Squire, Capt. Armstrong, Mr. Weise, Misses McClellan and Caulfield, Messrs. Linpon, Lorentzen, Leonhardt, Berzman, Perry, Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Beattie and infant, Messrs. Moquard, Sycip, and Cureton.

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Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 14, Des Vœux Road Central, City of Victoria Hongkong. London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.